Promotion of culture in J&K

2138. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the name and number of schemes introduced/expanded for promotion of culture, State-wise, during the period from 1st April, 1999 to 15th February, 2003; and

(b) whether Government intends to introduce such schemes in J&K State giving region-wise details of Jammu, Ladakh and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) There are several Schemes which exist for promotion of culture applicable for all the States including Jammu & Kashmir. A list of such existing schemes is enclosed as Statement. These are continuing Schemes.

Statement

Existing schemes for promotion of culture in J&K

1. Preservation and Development of Cultural Heritage of the Himalayas (Applicable to the States in Himalayan Region).
2. Promotion and Dissemination of Tribal/Folk Art and Culture.
3. Preservation and Development of Buddhist/Tibbetan Culture and Art.
4. Scheme for Building Grants to Cultural Organisations.
5. Financial Assistance to Professional Groups and Individuals for Specified Performing Art Projects.
6. Financial Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Celebration of Centenaries/Anniversaries.
7. Development and Maintenance of National Memorials.
8. Scholarships to Young Workers in different Cultural Fields.
9. Award of Senior/Junior Fellowships to Outstanding Artsists in the field of Performing, Literary and Plastic Arts.
10. Award of Senior/Junior Fellowships to Outstanding Artists in New Areas.

11. Financial Assistance topersons distinugished in letters, arts and such other walks of life who may be in indigent circumstances and their dependents.

12. Research Support to Voluntary Organisations engaged in Cultural Activities.

13. Promotion and Strengthening of Regional and Local Museums.

14. Setting up of Multipurpose Cultural Complexes including those for Children.

Preservation of tourist spots in J&K

2139. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have categorised tourist places in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether tourist places in Jammu and Kashmir are being damaged by the people carrying hotel and tourism business there;

(d) if so, whether Government are taking concrete steps to preserve natural beauty of these tourist spots; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The State Government of Jammu & Kashmir has categorised the tourist places into two categories *viz.* developed areas and less developed areas.

(c) Some areas are facing damages due to over utilisation by the people conducting hotel and tourism business.

(d) and (e) The State Government has imposed restrictions on further development of tourist infrastructure in such areas. Categorisation of tourist places is an important step in this direction. No tourism projects such as hotels, restaurants etc. are being approved in these areas without the clearance of the J&K State Pollution Control Board.